

Papal Succession Recorded on New Issues



In a recent series of issues from its philatelic client states the Inter-Governmental Philatelic

Corp. provides us with a perspective on Papal succession.

On May 29, Grenada issued a souvenir sheet commemorating the canonization of Pope John Paul II as a saint on April 27, 2014. Known as “the Polish Pope” John Paul II was pope from October 16, 1978 until his death on April 2, 2005, making him the second longest-serving pope in modern history (after Pope Pius IX who served from 1846 to 1878). Born in Poland, John Paul II was the first non-Italian pope since the Dutch Pope Adrian VI who served from 1522 to 1523.

He was succeeded by the German born Pope Benedict XVI who was pope from 2005 until his resignation in 2013. It was the first papal resignation in 600 years, attributed in part to his failing health, and he

now lives in the Vatican as Pope Emeritus. Benedict was elected

on 19 April 2005 in a papal conclave following the death of Pope John Paul II and was inaugurated on 24 April 2005.

Benedict, who is seen on a June 17 issue from the Union Island Grenadines of St. Vincent, was succeeded by the present Pope, Francis I, who was born in Argentina. Togo was given the honor of issuing on May 9 a souvenir sheet that depicts the current Pope, who has established himself as an advocate for the poor and underprivileged.

For details on these and other topical issues please go to the website of Inter-Governmental Philatelic Corp., www.igpc.com or <http://www.stampnewsnow.com/IGPC-Inter-GovernmentalStamps.html>